UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,207	08/26/2003	Ryoji Watanabe	116872	1938

7590 04/22/2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE
P. O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER	
GETANEH, MESFIN S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/22/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,207	WATANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MESFIN GETANEH	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 January 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 5 is depended on a cancelled claim, claim 4. The examiner took a position that claim 5 is depended on the amended claim 3. This claim will be further rejected under this assumption. Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teraura (US Pub 20020170973) in view of Maruoka (US Pub 20030137680).

Re claim 1, Teraura teaches an image forming system (copy machine with a facsimile function in FIG. 2) comprising:

an image display member on which an image is displayed (Printing paper 13 of FIG. 3); and

an image forming apparatus (FIG. 2), wherein:

the image display member includes:

a first parameter storage unit stores a first parameter indicating a way to form

the displayed image and a formation history of the displayed image and outputs the stored first parameter to an **external** (control programs and various data are stored in the ROM 23 memory circuit in FIG. 3A **[0076]** of the RFID tag 14);

the image forming apparatus includes:

an image reading unit for reading the displayed image (a scanner 6 of FIG. 2 reads an image on the sheet of document paper **[0068]** and **[0069]**);

a parameter reading unit for reading the output first parameter (the control circuit 29 in FIG. 5 controls the first reader-writer 15 to read the data in the RFID tag 14 **[0087]**); and

an image forming unit for forming the read image on the basis of the read first parameter on a recording **medium** (printing unit 11 in FIG. 5 prints image as determined by the control circuit 29 on a printing paper with RFID tag **[0082]**); **and**

the third reader-writer stores the data read from the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of document paper 61 and the stored (inputted) data in the RFID tag 14 of the sheet of the printing paper 13 **[0092].**

Teraura does not explicitly teach **a parameter writing unit for writing one of the read first parameter and a second parameter containing a history updated in response to the image formation on the recording medium into a storage unit of the recording medium,**

wherein the history contained in the second parameter includes at least a size change of the image formed on the recording medium.

Maruoka teaches the printing setting table 61 in RAM 6 of FIG.1 is updated based upon the auxiliary information file 501 of external card 51([0073], S53 in FIG. 16). The printing setting table comprises paper number, layout number and number of prints as shown in FIG. 3. The structure of a file consisting of paper file and auxiliary information file in an external card is shown in FIG. 4 and auxiliary information history file 503 in FIG. 13. The composition of a paper information table consists of size information as shown in FIG. 5 and the paper data has a size that is variable in terms of length [0077].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Teraura and Maruoka whereby printing information used the last time printing was performed can be made the effective information when the image data is printed (Maruoka, [0009]).

Re claim 2, which further limits claim 1, wherein:

Teraura teaches the recording medium includes a second parameter storage unit for storing the first parameter written from the external and outputting the stored first parameter to the external; and (the control circuit 29 controls the third reader-writer 15 to store data in the RFID tag 14 to print it on printing paper with RFID tag **[0087]**).

the third reader-writer stores the data read from the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of document paper 61 and the stored (inputted) data in the RFID tag 14 of the sheet of the printing paper 13 **[0092]**.

Teraura does not explicitly teach the image forming apparatus includes a parameter writing unit for writing one of the read first parameter and a second

parameter containing a history updated in response to the image formation on the recording medium into the second parameter storage unit.

Maruoka teaches the printing setting table 61 in RAM 6 of FIG.1 is updated based upon the auxiliary information file 501 of external card 51([0073], S53 in FIG. 16). The printing setting table comprises paper number, layout number and number of prints as shown in FIG. 3. The structure of a file consisting of paper file and auxiliary information file in an external card is shown in FIG. 4 and auxiliary information history file 503 in FIG. 13.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Teraura and Maruoka whereby printing information used the last time printing was performed can be made the effective information when the image data is printed (Maruoka, [0009]).

Re claim 3, an image forming apparatus (copy machine with a facsimile function in FIG. 2) comprising:

an image reading unit for reading an image displayed on an image display member (a scanner 6 of FIG. 2 reads an image on the sheet of document paper **[0068]** and **[0069]**);

a parameter reading unit for reading a first parameter indicating at least one of a way to form the displayed image and a formation history of the displayed image from the image display **member** (the control circuit 29 in FIG. 5 controls the first reader-writer 15 to read the data in the RFID tag 14 **[0087]);**

an image forming unit for forming the read image on the basis of the read first parameter on a recording **medium** (printing unit 11 in FIG. 5 prints image as determined by the control circuit 29 on a printing paper with RFID tag **[0082]**); **and**

the third reader-writer stores the data read from the RFID tag 14 on the sheet of document paper 61 and the stored (inputted) data in the RFID tag 14 of the sheet of the printing paper 13 **[0092].**

Teraura does not explicitly teach **a parameter writing unit for writing one of the read first parameter and a second parameter containing a history updated in response to the image formation on the recording medium into a storage unit of the recording medium,**

wherein the history contained in the second parameter includes at least a size change of the image formed on the recording medium.

Maruoka teaches the printing setting table 61 in RAM 6 of FIG.1 is updated based upon the auxiliary information file 501 of external card 51([0073], S53 in FIG. 16). The printing setting table comprises paper number, layout number and number of prints as shown in FIG. 3. The structure of a file consisting of paper file and auxiliary information file in an external card is shown in FIG. 4 and auxiliary information history file 503 in FIG. 13. The composition of a paper information table consists of size information as shown in FIG. 5 and the paper data has a size that is variable in terms of length [0077].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Teraura and Maruoka

whereby printing information used the last time printing was performed can be made the effective information when the image data is printed (Maruoka, [0009]).

Re claim 5, which further limits claim 3, wherein

Teraura does not explicitly teach the first parameter includes information indicating a mode for forming the displayed image on the recording medium, a size of the formed image, and number of the image formation.

Maruoka teaches a paper data in FIG. 6A and 6B, a page layout position size information in FIG. 5, a layout number and a total number of photographs n in FIG. 3.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Teraura and Maruoka whereby printing information used the last time printing was performed can be made the effective information when the image data is printed (Maruoka, [0009]).

Re claim 7, a method for forming an image, the apparatus of claim 1 and claim 3 perform the method as claimed in claim 7.

Re claim 8, which further limits claim 7, the apparatus of claim 2 performs the method as claimed in claim 8.

Re claim 9, a computer program **encoded in a computer-readable medium when executed by the computer**, CPU 7, SRAM 4 and RAM 6 in FIG.1 of Maruoka execute the method of claim 7.

Re claim 10, which further limits claim 9, CPU 7, SRAM 4 and RAM 6 in FIG.1 of Maruoka execute the method of claim 8.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MESFIN GETANEH whose telephone number is (571)270-3752. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mesfin Getaneh/
Patent Examiner
Au 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625